

Protocol #1

Identifying a Shared Vision for Student Learning

What vision do you hold for student learning at your school? What aspects of that vision make you unique? What aspects are shared with others on your team? Your unique and distinctive qualities make you important to school activities that depend on many different kinds of talent. The shared aspects of your vision make you an important part of a team.

The first part of the investigation of purpose will start with an exploration of what you believe about how learning should occur in your school. Then, in dialogue with others on your team, you can begin to identify commonalities that can hold the team together. Finally, you can identify the elements of a shared vision for your team that you develop into a paragraph—a “Vision for Learning at Your High School.” Other protocols in the exploration of purpose will take you further and further into specificity. As that occurs, you can use your vision statement to make choices among the many options that define personalized learning.

The vision statement protocol has four steps: Step 1: Freewrite; Step 2: Shared and Distinctive Beliefs; Step 3: Team Beliefs; and Step 4: Belief Statement.

Step 1: Freewrite

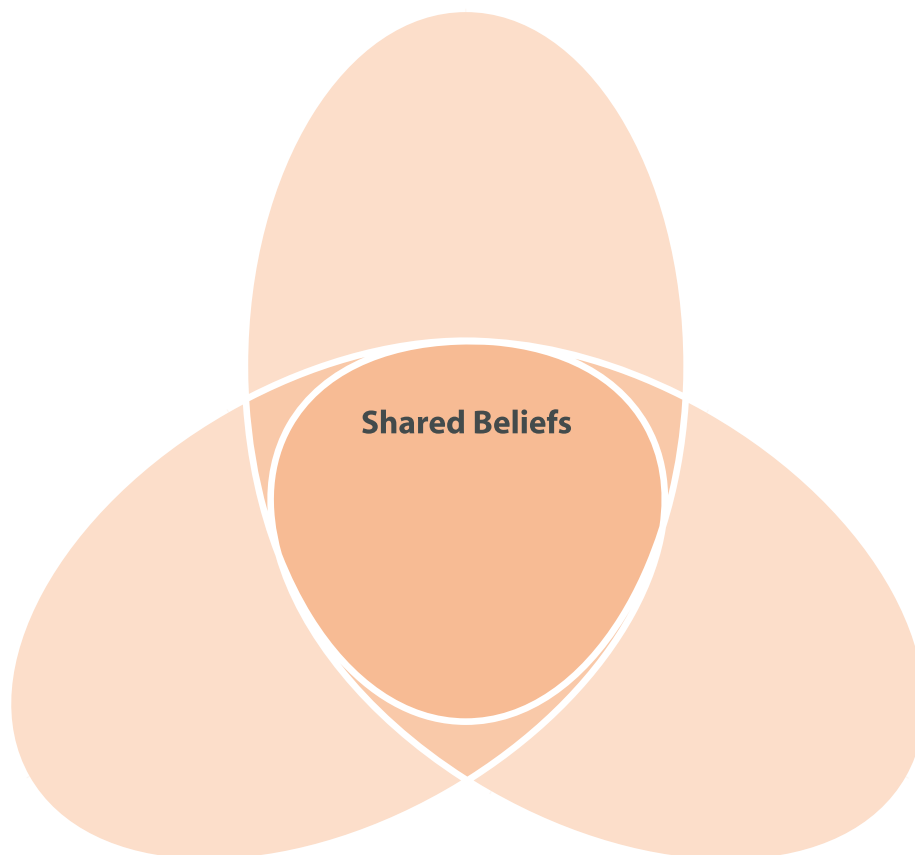
What is your hope for learning at your school? In a freewrite of three minutes on a blank piece of paper, write as much as you can on the following probe:

In my vision, my high school _____ is a place
where students...

Step 2: Shared and Distinctive Beliefs

(Groups of three) How much of what you believe do you share with others? The Venn diagram below can help you identify shared beliefs from your freewrites and list a few that are common to all. You do not need to stick to the wording of your freewrite. In fact, this exercise is actually a search for language that can capture the ideas shared by all three members of your group, so you may see your words merge with other words as the discussion continues. At the end, your group should be able to agree that the words at the center of the three circles represent your shared hope for learning at your school.

Name: _____



Name: _____

Name: _____

Step 3: Team Beliefs

Using the lists of shared beliefs and a blackboard or newsprint to gather ideas, ask a facilitator to help assemble a single catalogue of beliefs for the whole team. Go for consensus—meaning that the team should work on each item until the wording is acceptable to all, even if not perfect.

Step 4: Belief Statement

Ask a sub-team (or courageous individual) to write a paragraph that includes all the words on the newsprint and expresses the shared conviction of all members.